



Eric Funk, a contemporary classical composer in Bozeman, has 113 major works in his catalog comprising of: eight symphonies (and a ninth symphony, in progress), four operas, five ballets, five string quartets, seventeen concertos, five large choral works, and numerous works for chamber ensembles.

Eric holds degrees from Portland State University and is on the faculty at MSU Bozeman. He also serves as artistic director and host for Montana PBS-TV “11th & Grant with Eric Funk”, the Emmy Award winning showcase for Montana musicians of all genres, now in its 4th season.

The review panel felt that Eric “derives his work from a number of imaginative places, and writes without a concern for acceptance.” They were impressed with Eric’s “reaching out to the future ears.”

It is important to Eric that he engages young people in his work. For example, when he was commissioned by American Composers Forum to create a piece celebrating Montana youth, he wrote an open letter to all elementary school principals in Montana asking all 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders to draw or paint a picture of a dream they had while sleeping, and to write a sentence on the back describing that dream. He received over 1800 pieces of children's art from all over Montana and those sentences became the text for the piece, which was performed with a 150-voice children's chorus from Ennis, Belgrade and Bozeman at Carnegie Hall accompanied by the New England Repertory Symphony Orchestra.

Eric states, “There is no real value or creative satisfaction in writing what we know or adding derivative works from our own processes to our catalogs. I am constantly undertaking projects that reach far beyond my ability, inspiring and informing an intentional growth, and revealing a varied, stylistically sweeping catalog. I will compose until the day I die. And my last works will be the most radical in my catalog.”